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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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Ronald A. Katz

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08/04/2009

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EXAMINER

WOO, STELLA L.

ART UNIT

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**Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.**

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

<b>Office Action Summary</b>	<b>Application No.</b> 09/505,913	<b>Applicant(s)</b> KATZ, RONALD A.	
	<b>Examiner</b> Stella L. Woo	<b>Art Unit</b> 2614	

**-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --**

**Period for Reply**

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).

Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

**Status**

1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 28 April 2009.

2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**.                      2b) ☒ This action is non-final.

3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

**Disposition of Claims**

4) ☒ Claim(s) 16-35,38-65,68-98 and 101-141 is/are pending in the application.

4a) Of the above claim(s) 112-141 is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.

6) ☒ Claim(s) 16-35,38-65,68-98 and 101-111 is/are rejected.

7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.

8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

**Application Papers**

9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.

Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

**Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119**

12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

a) ☐ All    b) ☐ Some \*    c) ☐ None of:

1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

**Attachment(s)**

1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)

2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)

3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.

4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.

5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application

6) ☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_.

## **DETAILED ACTION**

### ***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112***

1. Claims 16- are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the written description requirement. The claims contains subject matter which was not described in the specification in such a way as to reasonably convey to one skilled in the relevant art that the inventor, at the time the application was filed, had possession of the claimed invention. Claim 16 was amended to recite "a request for a proposal provided by said active user via a keypad associated with the electronic device." The specification describes a buyer terminal with which a buyer accesses a blank form and enters the specific information (page 43, lines 14-17). However, it does not specify using a keypad associated with an electronic device. Independent claims 45, 77, and 109 similarly recite the added new matter.

### ***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103***

2. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

3. Claims 16-35, 38-42, 45-65, 68-72, 75-98, 101-105, 108-111 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Shavit et al. (US 4,799,156, hereinafter "Shavit") in view of Smith (US 5,450,123), and further in view of Lockwood (US 4,567,359).

Shavit discloses a commercial transaction communication system (Interactive Market Management System 50), the system being adapted for use with an on-line computer service (Shavit provides for access to a variety of information sources and database providers, e.g. Dialog; col. 7, lines 9-15), comprising:

- an interface (personal computers 62, 64 and communications interface 79; col. 5, line 28 - col. 6, line 51);

- an audio system (interactive conversational service; col. 7, line 58 - col. 8, line 4);

- a text system (mailbox service, col. 8, lines 12-22; col. 11, line 52 - col. 12, line 18; transaction service, col. 12, line 42 - col. 14, line 21., facsimile service, col. 14, line 22);

- a storage memory (database stores subscriber data and request data; col. 7, lines 23-46; col. 25, lines 28-50);

- a control computer unit (central processor 80) utilizing request data entered by the active buyer to seek responses from a select vendor from a plurality of vendors (one or more Request for Quotations (RFQ's) are entered by the buyer to seek bids from one or more distributors; col. 13, lines 10-34) and directing an electronic mail message relating to the select vendor to the active buyer via the on-line computer service (system 50 provides email messages to each user, including bids in response to requests for particular goods or services input by the user, promotions, and other information of particular interest to buyers; col. 11, lines 52 – col. 12, line 26; col. 13, lines 25-27; col. 18, lines 44-49; col. 20, lines 2-39).

Shavit differs from claims 16-35, 38-42, 45-65, 68-72, 75-98, 101-105, 108-111 in that it does not specify a dynamic video system. However, Smith teaches the desirability of including a camera at a representative terminal so that direct, real-time, point-to-point video communication can take place between a customer and the representative (col. 3, lines 26-27; col. 4, lines 25-28; moving pictures are communicated via AT&T 2500 video telephone sets, col. 1, lines 27-28) such that it would have been obvious to an artisan of ordinary skill to incorporate such dynamic, full-motion video communication, as taught by Smith, within the system of Shavit in order to provide a real-time video as well as audio communication between the customer and representative. In this way, a more realistic face-to-face meeting can take place.

Further, Smith teaches the desirability of allowing buyer access to a vendor supplied video image stored in a video file server (video source and database 6) for enhancing sales communication with the use of video (col. 1, line 51 - col. 3, line 27) such that it would have been obvious to an artisan of ordinary skill to incorporate such use of video, as taught by Smith, within the method of Shavit in order to allow a buyer to view the desired goods or services.

The combination of Shavit and Smith further differs from the claims in that although Smith provides for supplying customized information (col. 5, lines 48+), it does not specify selecting relevant data based on commercial classifications from one or more vendors or selecting certain vendor groups based on certain criteria. However, Lockwood teaches the desirability of having a central data processing unit 22 select an appropriate vendor-supplied data source associated with the customer's request (col. 5,

lines 37-55) for the purpose of allowing a user to obtain and compare quotations easily (col. 9, lines 26-30) such that it would have been obvious to an artisan of ordinary skill to incorporate such automatic vendor selection, as taught by Lockwood, within the combination of Shavit and Smith in order to provide buyers with a more efficient means of selecting goods and services from a plurality of vendors by providing customized audio/video presentations based on the buyer's area of interest. In this way, the buyer need not manually select each distributor from which information is desired and can easily receive information from a plurality of vendors rather than be restricted to vendors already known to the buyer.

Regarding claims 19-20, 41-42, 48-49, 68-69, 81-82, 101-102, Smith provides for a dynamic video source and database 6.

Regarding claims 21, 50, 83, Shavit provides for printing documents via facsimile (col. 14, line 22).

Regarding claims 22-23, 51-52, 84-85, 110, the examiner takes Official Notice that it is old and well known in the art at the time of invention to provide for freeze-frame and high resolution video capability in a video communication system such that it would have been obvious to an artisan of ordinary skill to incorporate such well known video features within the combination of Shavit and Smith.

Regarding claims 45, 77, 109, Shavit teaches the use of EDI as a standard communication protocol for the industry.

4. Claims 43-44, 73-74, 106-107 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Shavit, Smith and Lockwood, as applied to claims 16, 45 and 77

above, and further in view of Donald et al. (US 5,053,956, hereinafter "Donald") for the same reasons given in the last Office action and repeated below.

The combination of Shavit, Smith and Lockwood differs from the claims in that although it provides for displaying products to the customer (Smith, col. 2, lines 65-68), it does not specify an inventory control system. However, Donald teaches the desirability of coupling an interactive video display system with an inventory control system (col. 7, lines 3-9; col. 9, line 61 - col. 10, line 4) so that a customer can view products along with the number available in stock such that it would have been obvious to an artisan of ordinary skill to incorporate such coupling with an inventory control system, as taught by Donald, within the combination so that the customer can be apprised of availability while the seller's inventory database is kept current as items are purchased.

### ***Response to Arguments***

5. Applicant's arguments filed April 28, 2009 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

Applicant argues that "the respective teachings in Shavit (of the buyer selecting the vendor) and in Lockwood (of the central processor selecting the vendor) contradicts and teaches away from each other." However, both systems address obtaining quotations from different vendors. In Shavit, a buyer must identify the vendors from which quotations are requested. Lockwood saves a buyer time by automatically obtaining quotations from several vendors without requiring a buyer to specify particular vendors (col. 2, lines 8-30). In this way, the buyer need not manually select each

distributor from which information is desired and can easily receive information from a plurality of vendors rather than be restricted to vendors already known to the buyer.

6. Applicant's arguments with respect to the effective filing date of U.S. Pat. No. 5,576,951 have been considered but are moot in view of the new grounds of rejection.

7. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Stella L. Woo whose telephone number is (571) 272-7512. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Curtis Kuntz can be reached on (571) 272-7499. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Stella L. Woo/  
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 2614



